Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is not a correct statement.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—But the statement is true. Year before last more than Rs. 10,000 lapsed and last year more than Rs. 20,000 lapsed. So with the increase of allotment there is an increase in the lapsing also. So I move that these Panchayat allotments should not lapse.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I too support the resolution. I do not think a speech is necessary.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is the Government opposing it? Let us see whether the Government is opposing it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—On a point of information. What is the difference between the lapsing of funds for Panchayats and Public Works?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You must be able to know.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—No difference. But there is this difference. There we are dealing with an efficient Department presided over by an efficient Head. In the case of the Panchayats, they are only poor people, who may be ignorant and not very competent to do all these things within the prescribed time. That is a great difference.

Deputy President.—Amounts should accumulate to the credit of the particular Panchayat.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, what is more, this resolution has been pressed and passed in this House. I do not think Government opposed it. It was passed once or twice, and it is very vexatious owing to the carelessness of these people. The people in the interior are made to suffer. Then the Superintendent cannot come and press the people to do some work. Year after year the lapses take place and they cannot get their legitimate share of contribution. That is the only reason.

Deputy President.—Has the Panchayat Member anything to say in regard to this?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I have nothing to say because the whole matter has been dealt with by the Finance Committee.

(*The resolution was put and agreed to.*)

18. Text Book Committee and Board of Studies.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 18 by Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, the resolution reads thus:—"*This Council recommends to the Government that there should always be two non-official Members of the Legislative Council on the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies and that the appointments of such Members be made forthwith*".

This resolution only presses upon the Government the desirability of having two of the non-official Members of this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

House both on the Text-Book Committee and on the Board of Studies. That seems to have been the practice before. There were two Members of the last Legislative Council appointed on the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies. One of the Members is no longer a Member of this Council and, therefore, from the two individuals only one continues to be a member of the Board of Studies and the Text-Book Committee. The resolution suggests that, excluding the one who is already there, another may also be appointed. I commend the resolution to the House.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I shall explain it, Sir. The Government accepted the proposition that was placed before this House sometime ago that this House should be represented on the Text-Book Committee and, therefore, two non-official Members of this House were appointed as Members of the Text-Book Committee, and the discrepancy that has been pointed out has been brought about this way. The term of the Text-Book Committee does not exactly correspond to the term of the Legislative Council. Two Members were selected from the last year's Legislative Council, but the term of the Text-Book Committee has not expired. When the term of the present Committee expires, we shall appoint two Members from this Council. I am only explaining the situation to him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I am not against Mr. Padmanabha Menon continuing. What I urge is that another Member of this House may be put.

Deputy President.—Is it seconded?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—If I sit down it may be seconded or may not be seconded. I commend the resolution to the House.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I second it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I rise to oppose that resolution *in toto*. I do not know how it was that the Council passed a resolution like this. The mere fact of a person being a Member of this House does not put him in a position to sit in a highly technical Council as the Text-Book Committee. There may be occasions when there may not be a single Member of this House competent to sit in judgment in a Council of the Text-Book Committee. The mere fact that certain persons are selected as members do not go to show that they are competent to discharge all the functions, functions which can only be discharged by people who have spent almost all their lifetime in that aspect of life. It is true and it is a human weakness and a pardonable weakness that each one thinks that he is competent to do his work, but I think it is going too far for this Council to insist on representation in all such committees which properly

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

form a technical branch under a separate Department. I honestly think the Educational Department and the people who are working in the Educational Department are the proper people to sit in judgment over the Text-Book Committee, and I personally think that Government have made a great mistake in yielding that the Members of this Council should be represented in that Committee. There is no use of a Legislative Council to be represented in a committee which sits there to deal with the merits of the books, and I hope, if the Government is convinced of the mistake, they will rectify the mistake they have already done.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I support the opposition.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I rise to support the resolution. I am not so very diffident with regard to the efficiency of the Members of this Legislative Council in respect of their literary attainments. I think, for being a member of the Board of Studies and the Text-Book Committee, it does not require any exceptional knowledge. Almost all the Members who are returned in this Council are men of good culture and education, who are fit to be members in the Text-Book Committee, the function of which is only to select proper books for the students, and therefore, I think it is desirable that as many Members as possible from this representative body in whom the people of the State have great confidence should be represented in the Text-Book Committee also. That must have been the reason which induced the Government, on a previous occasion, to nominate two Members from the Legislative Council to be in the Board of Studies and in the Text-Book Committee. We have been hearing in this Council several criticisms on the working of the Text-Book Committee and of the Board of Studies. Member after Member spoke about the bad books that were selected by the Text-Book Committee for some consideration or other and that must have been the reason that prompted the Government to nominate two Members from here.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The opposition Member is one of the Committee Members.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—He is not in that Committee exactly. There was another committee constituted by the Government to go into the working of the Text-Book Committee. He is a Member of that Committee.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That is a different Committee.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The Text-Book Committee, as it was constituted originally, consisted only of schoolmasters and the Senior Inspector as their President. There was then, rightly or wrongly, a lot of complaints from the people and from the publishers, etc., with regard to the mode of the selection of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

books. In this Council several Members had occasion to speak about it. And certain books that were not approved by the Text-Book Committee on one occasion were approved by the Government *suo moto* and they were sent to the Board of Studies. I had also occasion to criticise the action of the Government in that connection. Anyhow there was a sort of dissatisfaction. The Hon'ble Secretary to the Government would be able to say whether there are such complaints even now.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There are; even after the nomination of Members of this House. Even after the appointment of Members of this House there is a lot of complaint and it will continue so long as the Text-Book Committee continues.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What I want to know is whether there are complaints about books which have not been approved by the Text-Book Committee. General complaints there will be.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—About the decisions of the Committee there are complaints that they have selected wrong books. They have refused to admit good books. These are the nature of the complaints.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Only to avoid that sort of complaint more Members from here may be sent.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It will not be possible.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We can minimise the complaints then.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—That cannot be done.

Deputy President.—Those members will not complain.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—As was already pointed out by the Hon'ble mover, although two Members were nominated from the Legislative Council last time, one of the Members is not returned in the Second Council, and, therefore, there is only one now. It is desirable that there should be more men in whom the public have greater confidence.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Member should not say anything against the resolution. The resolution only says two Members. The term of the Committee is three years. It does not correspond with the term of the Council. How is it possible? Mr. Padmanabha Menon was once appointed. How can a new Member be introduced now?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I do not mean that Mr. Padmanabha Menon should be removed. The Text-Book Committee can be reconstituted again.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—When a set of Members is appointed, they will hold office for a number of years. Can you be removed from the Legislative Council even if we like it? They also hold office for a number of years. It is not possible

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to remove those members before the expiry of the term. You please influence Mr. Padmanabha Menon to resign.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether there is any limit as regards the number of members of the Text-Book Committee ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—If there is a limit in the number of members of the Text-Book Committee, there is no use of pressing the resolution. So I don't press.

(The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.)

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly